



United Nations  
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**World Heritage**

**39 COM**

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**UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC  
AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION**

**CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF  
THE WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE  
WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE**

**Thirty-ninth session**

**Bonn, Germany  
28 June – 8 July 2015**

**Item 16 of the Provisional Agenda: Other Business**

**INF.16. Draft Report of the World Heritage Committee on its activities for  
the 20th session of the General Assembly of States Parties (UNESCO, 2015)**

**SUMMARY**

This document provides the Committee with the draft report to be presented to the 20th session of the General Assembly and to the 38th session of the General Conference, as per Article 29.3 of the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage. The report contains information concerning the main activities and decisions taken by the World Heritage Committee since the 19th session of the General Assembly of States Parties held on 19 – 21 November 2013.

The report will be included as one of the "statutory reports of UNESCO's intergovernmental committees and councils submitted to the General Conference, and the reports of governmental, regional and international conferences" (37 C/REP/\_\_\_\_) and will be made available in the six official languages of UNESCO. It will not require a decision on the part of the General Conference.

## I. Overview and structure of this document

1. This document is intended to provide the UNESCO General Conference with information regarding the main activities and decisions taken by the World Heritage Committee since the 19th General Assembly of States Parties (19-21 November 2015) in the implementation of the *Convention*.
2. In order to better present the varied information contained in this document, the main activities and decisions of the World Heritage Committee have been grouped according to its Strategic Objectives. The Strategic Objectives, adopted by the Committee at its 26th session (Budapest, 2002), are the following:
  - a) Strengthen the **Credibility** of the World Heritage List
  - b) Ensure the effective **Conservation** of the World Heritage properties
  - c) Promote the development of effective **Capacity-building** in States Parties
  - d) Increase public awareness, involvement and support for World Heritage through **Communication**<sup>1</sup>.
3. To the 4 Strategic Objectives mentioned above (also called “4 Cs”), the Committee, at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007), decided to add a “Fifth C” for “Communities” which reads as follows: “To enhance the role of communities in the implementation of the *World Heritage Convention*” (Decision **31 COM 13B**).

## II. Background information

### A. Number of States Parties to the *World Heritage Convention*

4. As of July 2015, there are 191 States Parties to the *Convention*<sup>2</sup>. Since the 19th General Assembly in 2013, Bahamas has joined the *Convention*.

### B. Current Members of the World Heritage Committee and Bureau

5. **21 members:** Algeria, Colombia, Croatia, Finland, Germany, India, Jamaica, Japan, Kazakhstan, Korea (Republic of), Lebanon, Malaysia, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Senegal, Serbia, Turkey, Viet Nam.

Their terms of office are:

Until the **end of the 38th session of the General Conference (2015)**: Algeria, Colombia, Germany, India, Japan, Malaysia, Qatar, Senegal, Serbia

Until the **end of the 39th session of the General Conference (2017)**: Croatia, Finland, Jamaica, Kazakhstan, Korea (Republic of), Lebanon, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Turkey, Viet Nam.

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<sup>1</sup> See Decision **26 COM 17.1** (Budapest, 2002).

<sup>2</sup> The list of States Parties to the *World Heritage Convention* is available at the following web address:  
<http://whc.unesco.org/en/statesparties/>

**Composition of the Bureau of the World Heritage Committee since July 2013**

JUNE 2013-JUNE 2014	JUNE 2014-JULY 2015	JULY 2015
Chairperson: <b>H.E. Sheika AL MAYASSA BINT HAMAD AL-THANI, Qatar</b>	Chairperson: <b>H.E Prof. Maria BÖHMER, Germany</b>	
Rapporteur: <b>Mr Francisco J. Gutierrez, Colombia</b>	Rapporteur: <b>Mr. Hicham Cheaib, Lebanon</b>	
Algeria	Croatia	
Colombia	India	
Germany	Jamaica	
Japan	Qatar	
Senegal	Senegal	

**C. World Heritage Statutory Meetings since the 19th General Assembly (2013)**

SESSION	VENUE	DATES	DOCUMENTS PREPARED
38th session of the World Heritage Committee <b>(38 COM)</b>	Doha, Qatar	15 – 25 June 2014	30 working documents/12 information documents (WHC-14/38.COM)
1st Extraordinary session of the General Assembly <b>(1EXT.GA)</b>	UNESCO HQs, Paris	13 – 14 November 2014	4 working documents/2 information documents (WHC-14/1 EXT.GA)
39th session of the World Heritage Committee <b>(39 COM)</b>	Bonn, Germany	28 June – 8 July 2015	33 working documents/13 information documents (WHC-15/39.COM)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>67 working documents/27 information documents</b>		<b>94 documents in total</b>

**D. Strengthening the credibility of the World Heritage List**

***Nominations to the World Heritage List***

***Inscription of properties on the World Heritage List since the 19th General Assembly (2013)***

<b>Region</b>	<b>New cultural properties</b>	<b>New natural properties</b>	<b>New mixed properties</b>	<b>Total</b>
Africa	0	1	0	<b>1</b>
Arab States	5	0	0	<b>5</b>
Asia/Pacific	14	2	1	<b>17</b>
Europe/North America	21	1	0	<b>22</b>
Latin America/Caribbean	4	0	1	<b>5</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>50</b>

6. The total number of properties on the World Heritage List as of July 2015 is 1031 (802 cultural, 197 natural and 32 mixed)<sup>3</sup>. These properties are located in 163 States Parties (i.e. 28 States Parties have no property inscribed on the World Heritage List). 175 States Parties have submitted Tentative Lists of properties they may decide to nominate in future years.

***Inscription of properties on the List of World Heritage in Danger since the 19th General Assembly (2013)***

<b>Committee Session</b>	<b>Number of properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger</b>	<b>Number of properties removed from the List of World Heritage in Danger</b>
<b>38 COM (Doha, Qatar, 2014)</b>	<b>3</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Palestine, <b>Palestine: Land of Olives and Vines – Cultural Landscape of Southern Jerusalem, Battir</b></li> <li>• Plurinational State of Bolivia, <b>City of Potosi</b></li> <li>• United Republic of Tanzania, <b>Selous Game Reserve</b></li> </ul>	<b>1</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• United Republic of Tanzania, <b>Ruins of Kilwa Kisiwani and Ruins of Songo Mnara</b></li> </ul>
<b>39 COM (Bonn, Germany, 2015)</b>	<b>3</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Iraq, <b>Hatra</b></li> <li>• Yemen, <b>Old City of Sana'a</b></li> <li>• Yemen, <b>Old Walled City of Shibam</b></li> </ul>	<b>1</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Colombia, <b>Los Katíos National Park</b></li> </ul>

<sup>3</sup> The World Heritage List is available on the web at the following address: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/>

7. The total number of properties on the List of World Heritage in Danger as of July 2015 is **48 (30 cultural and 18 natural)**.<sup>4</sup>

***Deletion of properties from the World Heritage List***

8. None since 2009.

***Global strategy for a representative, balanced and credible World Heritage List***

9. International, inter-regional and regional meetings and workshops have been organized for the implementation of the Global Strategy: Details of all these activities have been included in document WHC-15/39.COM/5A.

**E. Ensuring the effective conservation of World Heritage properties**

***State of conservation reports of World Heritage properties examined by the Committee since the 19th General Assembly (2013)***

<b>38 COM</b>	<b>LIST OF WORLD HERITAGE IN DANGER</b>	<b>WORLD HERITAGE LIST</b>
Africa	16	26
Arab States	12	9
Asia/Pacific	4	26
Europe/North America	5	26
Latin America/ Caribbean	7	19
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>106</b>
<b>39 COM</b>	<b>LIST OF WORLD HERITAGE IN DANGER</b>	<b>WORLD HERITAGE LIST</b>
Africa	16	17
Arab States	13	16
Asia/Pacific	4	27
Europe/North America	5	23
Latin America/ Caribbean	8	12
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>95</b>

<sup>4</sup> The list of World Heritage in Danger is available on the web at the following address : <http://whc.unesco.org/en/danger/>

**Approved International Assistance (IA) from the World Heritage Fund since the 19th General Assembly (2013) as of July 2015**

<b>REGIONS</b>	<b>NUMBER OF STATES PARTIES TO REQUEST IA</b>	<b>NUMBER OF REQUESTS</b>	<b>TOTAL AMOUNT APPROVED (in USD)</b>
Africa	14	16	<b>341,830</b>
Arab States	1	2	<b>59,660</b>
Asia and Pacific	6	6	<b>193,583</b>
Europe and North America	2	2	<b>99,864</b>
Latin America & Caribbean	5	7	<b>214,339</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>909,276</b>

***Periodic Reporting***

10. The final report on the results of the Second Cycle of the Periodic Reporting exercise for North America and Progress Report for the Europe region as well as the Progress Report on Periodic Reporting in all other regions were presented to the 38th session of the World Heritage Committee (Doha, 2014).
11. The Final Report on the Results of the Second Cycle of the Periodic Reporting Exercise for the Europe Region and Action Plan has been presented to the 39th session of the Committee. The Follow-up of the Second Cycle of the Periodic Reporting exercise for the other regions as well as a general reflection on Periodic Reporting have been also examined by the same session of the Committee.

***Reinforced Monitoring Mechanism***

12. As per Decision **31 COM 5.2**, the Reinforced Monitoring Mechanism is a constant cooperative process with the State Party concerned. At its 39th session (Bonn, 2015), the Committee decided to continue to apply the Reinforced Monitoring Mechanism to the following properties:
  - Manovo-Gounda Saint-Floris (Central African Republic)
  - Virunga National Park (Democratic Republic of the Congo)
  - Kahuzi-Biega National Park (Democratic Republic of the Congo)
  - Garamba National Park (Democratic Republic of the Congo)
  - Salonga National Park (Democratic Republic of the Congo)
  - Okapi Wildlife Reserve (Democratic Republic of the Congo)
  - Timbuktu (Mali)
  - Tomb of Askia (Mali)
  - Temple of Preah Vihear (Cambodia)
  - Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls (site proposed by Jordan)
  - Medieval Monuments in Kosovo (Serbia)

### ***International Conferences and Symposiums***

13. A number of international conferences and symposiums focused on various World Heritage issues were organized by the World Heritage Centre or with the Centre's assistance. Inventories of these activities are included in documents WHC-14/38.COM/5A and WHC-15/39.COM/5A.

## **F. Promoting the development of effective capacity-building in States Parties**

### ***Global Training Strategy***

14. Over the past biennium, the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, in close cooperation with States Parties and relevant category 2 centres, have undertaken a number of activities which contributed directly to the implementation of the World Heritage for Capacity-Building Strategy (WHCBS), adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 35th session (Paris, 2011). These included programmes aimed at strengthening regional and national institutions responsible for heritage protection, training initiatives targeting professionals and youth and the development of new guidance materials.

### ***Education activities***

15. A number of international World Heritage Youth Fora, Youth Volunteer projects and international as well as regional workshops and training courses were organized by the World Heritage Centre or with the Centre's assistance to develop educational activities related to World Heritage (an inventory of these activities is included in documents WHC-14/38.COM/5A and WHC-15/39.COM/5A)
16. Adaptation and production of the interactive DVD version of the World Heritage in Young Hands Kit in French was undertaken.
17. One new episode of the *Patrimoinito's World Heritage Adventures cartoon series* was produced on the theme of biodiversity with the World Heritage Site of the Sundarbans National Park (India).

## **G. Increasing public awareness, involvement and support for World Heritage through communication**

### ***Awareness-raising***

18. In 2014, the World Heritage website (<http://whc.unesco.org>) received an average of 33,125 visits per day. Traffic to the World Heritage website has increased by 28%, from 9,796,892 visits in 2012 to 12,623,553 in 2014.
19. 8 e-mail newsletters "World Heritage Information" were sent in 2013 and 2014 in French and English to some 20,000 World Heritage Centre website members. In 2013, the practice to send the e-newsletter was changed to respect the choice of the members to

receive or not the newsletter, thus reducing the number from over 100,000 receivers to 20,000.

20. Articles and interviews on World Heritage have been published in response to requests by numerous national and international well-known media.

### ***Publications***

21. In 2013-2014, 100,000 **World Heritage Maps** were produced and disseminated in English, French and Spanish in partnership with Qatar and National Geographic (as well as 2,200 copies in Arabic). The Korean version was prepared (50,000 copies) by the Korean National Commission. In 2014-2015, 70,000 copies were produced in partnership with National Geographic and Germany. The Korean version was prepared (80,000 copies) by the Korean National Commission.

22. Five new publications were issued in the **World Heritage Papers Series**:

- N° 36. Earthen Architecture in Today's World
- N° 37. Climate Change Adaptation for Natural World Heritage Sites – A Practical Guide
- N° 38. Safeguarding Precious Resources for Island Communities
- N° 39. Human origin sites and the World Heritage Convention in Asia
- N° 40. Engaging Local Communities in Stewardship of World Heritage

23. Nine issues of the quarterly magazine **World Heritage** (issues 69 to 76, plus a Special Issue on Iraq in June 2015) were published between June 2013 and June 2015. Since issue n° 71, the Review exists also as an i-app for iPad, Android and Kindle Fire tablets.

24. The **World Heritage Resource Manual Series** continues with a new title, translations of manuals and some printed versions. *Managing Cultural World Heritage* was issued in November 2013 and is available in French and English as printed publications and in Spanish as PDF online version. A Russian version (text only) was provided by the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation. *Preparing World Heritage Nominations* (2011) was translated into Portuguese, Spanish and Arabic. A Russian version (text only) was provided by the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation - printed versions exist in English, French, Portuguese and Arabic. *Managing Natural World Heritage* was translated into Spanish - printed versions exist for French and English. *Managing Disaster Risks for World Heritage* was translated in Spanish and Portuguese.

### ***Bi-lateral Agreements with States Parties and Partnerships***

25. Since 2013, bilateral agreements have been concluded or continued with 17 States Parties and the European Commission.

26. In the period 2013-2015, the World Heritage Centre has established and/or extended **19 partnerships with private sector companies and foundations**, all of which are managed in close consultation with UNESCO's Bureau of Strategic Planning (BSP). Inventories of on-going and envisaged partnerships with the private sector and foundations were presented to the Committee in documents WHC-14/38.COM/5A and WHC-15/39.COM/5A.



**H. Follow-up to the Director-General's initiative on "The World Heritage Convention: Thinking Ahead"**

27. By Resolution **19 GA 11**, the General Assembly requested that a follow-up report to the Director-General's initiative on "The World Heritage Convention: Thinking Ahead" be included in the present document. Such a report is presented to the 39th session of the World Heritage Committee and can be found in Document WHC-15/39.COM/5C.